

# Boston Connects, Incorporated Boston Empowerment Zone

2201 Washington Street

# **BOARD MINUTES**

June 24, 2003

**Members Present:** Mike Vance *-President*, Robert Kinney · Vice President, Mike Foley ·

Treasurer, Gloria Coney - Clerk, Joelee Baker-Bey, Ralph Cooper, Julia Flashner, Michael Glavin, Charlotte Golar Richie, Betty Greene, Elizabeth Miranda, Frederick Umeh, John Wagner and Thomas Yee

Members Absent: Rev. Gerald Bell, George Greenidge, Robert Harrington, Joanne

Hilferty, Mark Maloney, Valerie Pruitt and Juanita Wade Christine Araujo, Shirley Carrington and Sherry O'Brien

**EDIC Staff:** Ken Barnes and Michelle Trousil

**Ex-Officios:** Senator Dianne Wilkerson

**Guests:** Cheryl Snyder

Meeting called to order at 6:20 p.m.

Introductions were made.

BCI Staff:

# 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion: To accept minutes of the May 27, 2003 Boston Connects, Inc. Board

Meeting

By: Mr. Wagner Second: Mr. Umeh

Recused: 0 Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0

Motion: Carried.

### 2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Vance stated that the goal is to meet in July, not in August and to return to work in September. He then discussed the vacant seats in Districts 3, 4, and 6 on the Board and the fact that candidates are still needed to fill the vacant Board seats. The vacancy in District 11, resulting from Pat Riddick's resignation, will be filled by Suezanne Bruce. He thanked Ms. Riddick for her service on the BCI Board.

Board members are needed to serve on the Ex-Offender and Health and Well-Being committees. Mr. Vance reported that there was discussion of the Family Opportunity Centers at the Executive Committee meeting. Ms. Coney has agreed to Chair the Health and Well-Being Committee which will meet in July to develop ideas on how to implement the Family Opportunity program.

Mr. Vance made reference to the fact that Board elections are held each year to fill four vacant seats on a rotating basis. Ms. Araujo will speak more about the elections in her report.



### 3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Araujo passed around the Board Committee sign-up sheet and encouraged Board members to sign up to serve on a Committee. Ms. Araujo circulated her Executive Director's report and reviewed each program.

Mr. Glavin acknowledged the publicity that the Summer Jobs program had received. Discussion ensued regarding the specifics of the BCI Summer Jobs programs. Ms. Araujo informed the Board that contract negotiations would begin on Wednesday and the ideas raised by Board members would be addressed at the negotiation sessions. Ms. Carrington gave the names of the contacts at ABCD (Alison Carter Marlow 617 348-6546) and Boston Centers for Youth and Families (Tracy Litthcut 635-4920, Extension 2223).

Ms. Araujo then discussed the Board Elections and explained that certain Board votes were necessary in accordance with the by-laws.

Motion:

1. The 2003 Boston Connects Inc., Board elections will occur as follows:

Saturday, November 1, 2003 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

<u>District</u>		Voting Location	
2	Roxbury	Fairfield Center	10 MalcolmX Blvd.
7	Orchard Gdns/S.E.	Orchard Gardens Comm. Ctr.	2 Dearborn St.
8	Roxbury	Dudley Square Library	65 Warren St.
9	Dorchester	Project Right	320 Blue Hill Ave.

- 2. The pre-election Community Education Program will commence prior to August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003.
- 3. Certification of Qualified Candidates will occur at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2003 Board meeting.

By: Mr. Foley Second: Mrs. Green

Recused: 0 Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0

Motion: Carried

Ms. Araujo then discussed the procurement process for the Ex-Offender Initiative. The RFQ was issued on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 18 responses were received by the deadline of May 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Vance, Mr. Kinney, Ms. Coney and Ms. Araujo reviewed the responses and interviewed the top three candidates on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Carla Richards, Mr. Brian Allston and Christopher Navin and Associates were interviewed. Mr. Glavin inquired as to whether this was an arms length hire and not an additional position at BCl and that BCl would explore the opportunity to work with the Center for Social Justice at Northeastern University.

Motion:

To authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of BCI, to enter into a contract with Carla J. Richards for consultant services to culminate in a draft Action Plan and a Summit in support of BCI's ex-offender initiative. The services will be performed between July and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.

By: Mr. Kinney Second: Ms. Coney



Recused: 0 Abstained: 0 Oppos
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## 4. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Mr. Glavin presented a proposal for \$10,000 of Goal A funds to conduct job fairs/open houses to inform Zone residents of the job opportunities available through projects supported through Empowerment Zone financing. The job fairs would be co-sponsored by the developer and expenses for these job fairs would also be shared with the project developers. A minimum of five job fairs would be held. Discussion ensued around the proposal and a suggestion was made that outreach include radio and other media advertising. Brief discussion centered on mechanisms to track the number of zone residents attending the fairs and then placed; and whether this funding was sufficient.

Motion: \$10,000 of Goal A funds for expenses to support job fairs informing community residents of the job opportunities available in the bricks and mortar projects supported by Empowerment Zone funds.

By: Mr. Cooper Second: Mr. Foley

Recused: 0 Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0

#### **B. EDUCATION AND JOB READINESS COMMITTEE:**

No report.

### 5. OTHER BUSINESS:

Senator Wilkerson provided an update on the Department of Public Health project. She reported that within a month there should be more information on the project from the State. The letter of support written by the Board several months ago was very helpful and the Board might be requested to write a follow up. The Board was cognizant of the fact that Boston could lose access to the \$5,000,000 left in the EDI/108 funding pool if they weren't obligated before the end of the year.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

A true Record Attest:		
Gloria Coney, Clerk	 Date	

